

What is claimed is:

1. A method for indicating receipt of an incoming call on a radiotelephone, the method comprising:

receiving a signal indicating an incoming call on a radiotelephone; and  
providing a selected voice-based distinguishable alert signal, having an associated sound intensity value and including at least three audibly perceptible, voice-based words.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

determining if said incoming call has an associated source phone number;  
and

when said incoming call has an associated phone number, providing said incoming call notification signal with at least one audibly perceptible, voice-based word that identifies at least one source of said incoming call.

3. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

determining if said incoming call has an associated source phone number;  
when said incoming call has an associated phone number, determining if the source phone number is contained in a database associated with said radiotelephone; and

when the source phone number is contained in the database, providing said incoming call notification signal with at least one audibly perceptible, voice-based word that identifies at least one source of said incoming call.

4. The method of claim 3, further comprising:

when said source phone number is not contained in said database, providing a database modification means to allow information concerning said source phone number to be added to said database.

5. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

estimating a value of a background sound level that is present at said radiotelephone at a time said incoming call signal is received; and

when the background sound level value is less than a selected threshold background sound value, providing said incoming call notification signal at said first sound intensity value; and

when the background sound level value is at least equal to the threshold background sound value, providing said incoming call notification signal at a second sound intensity value that is larger than said first sound intensity value.

6. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

estimating a distance between a user and said radiotelephone at a time said incoming call signal is received;

when the estimated distance is less than a selected threshold distance, providing said incoming call notification signal at said first sound intensity value; and

when the estimated distance is at least equal to the threshold distance, providing said incoming call notification signal at a second sound intensity value that is larger than said first sound intensity value.

7. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

determining an accumulated time after said incoming call notification signal is first provided, during which a user of said radiotelephone does not respond to said notification signal; and

when the accumulated time exceeds a selected time value, providing a second incoming call notification signal having a sound intensity value that is greater than said first sound intensity value.

8. The method of claim 1, further comprising providing said voice-based signal using at least one of: a voice of a user of said radiotelephone, a voice of a person other than a user of said radiotelephone, and a synthesized voice sound.

9. A system for indicating receipt of an incoming call on a radiotelephone, the system comprising:

a radiotelephone that is capable of receiving a signal indicating an incoming call on the radiotelephone; and

an incoming call mechanism that provides a selected voice-based distinguishable alert signal, having an associated sound intensity value and including at least three audibly perceptible, voice-based words.

10. The system of claim 9, wherein said incoming call mechanism:

determines if said incoming call has an associated source phone number;  
and

when said incoming call has an associated phone number, provides said incoming call notification signal with at least one audibly perceptible, voice-based word that identifies at least one source of said incoming call.

11. The system of claim 9, wherein said incoming call mechanism:  
determines if said incoming call has an associated source phone number;  
when said incoming call has an associated phone number, determines if the source phone number is contained in a database associated with said radiotelephone; and

when the source phone number is contained in the database, provides said incoming call notification signal with at least one audibly perceptible, voice-based word that identifies at least one source of said incoming call.

12. The system of claim 11, wherein:  
when said source phone number is not contained in said database, said incoming call mechanism provides a database modification means to allow information concerning said source phone number to be added to said database.

13. The system of claim 9, wherein said incoming call mechanism:  
estimates a value of a background sound level that is present at said radiotelephone at a time said incoming call signal is received; and  
when the background sound level value is less than a selected threshold background sound value, provides said incoming call notification signal at said first sound intensity value; and

when the background sound level value is at least equal to the threshold background sound value, provides said incoming call notification signal at a second sound intensity value that is larger than said first sound intensity value.

14. The system of claim 9, wherein said incoming call mechanism:  
estimates a distance between a user and said radiotelephone at a time said incoming call signal is received;

when the estimated distance is less than a selected threshold distance,  
provides said incoming call notification signal at said first sound intensity value;  
and

when the estimated distance is at least equal to the threshold distance,  
provides said incoming call notification signal at a second sound intensity value  
that is larger than said first sound intensity value.

15. The system of claim 9, wherein said incoming call mechanism:  
determines an accumulated time after said incoming call notification signal  
is first provided, during which a user of said radiotelephone does not respond to  
said notification signal; and

when the accumulated time exceeds a selected time value, provides a  
second incoming call notification signal having a sound intensity value that is  
greater than said first sound intensity value.

16. The system of claim 9, wherein said incoming call mechanism provides  
said voice-based signal using at least one of: a voice of a user of said

radiotelephone, a voice of a person other than a user of said radiotelephone, and a synthesized voice sound.

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